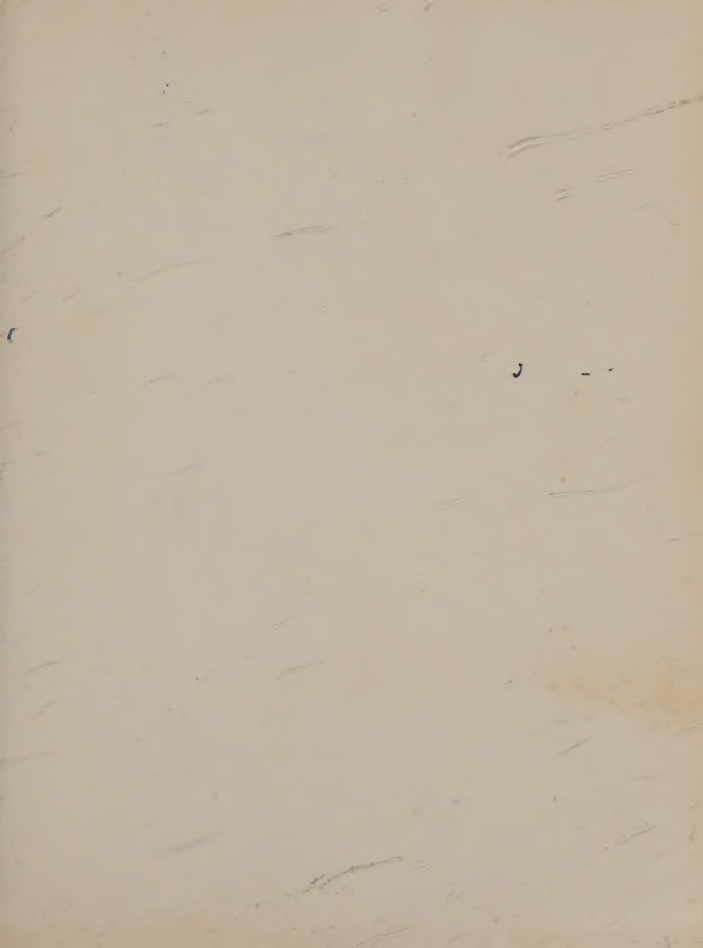


SERMONETTES  
AND PRAYERS  
BY  
HENRY M. EDMONDS









# SERMONETTES AND PRAYERS

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NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN

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For several years I have furnished to the Birmingham Age-Herald a short sermon extract or essay of semi-religious nature for each Sunday's paper, and a little prayer for every day. A few of the so-called sermonettes and of the prayers are reproduced in the following pages.

THE AUTHOR.

November, 1916.





## The Thin Gray Line

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THE Confederate reunion of 1916 is over and I am sitting wondering about it all.

What is the secret spring from which this enthusiasm has flowed all these years, and from which it gathers its amazing life now?

I watched them come in, too old in many cases to walk alone, too poor to pay their own way. I saw them in their meetings, listening to their orators and shouting and crying by turns. "The Birth of a Nation" sent them to a seventh heaven. "Dixie" stirred ancient depths in them. They disported themselves on the ballroom floor and danced along the street in their parade, as if drunk with strange wine. They lifted their hats, they kissed ladies' hands, they waved to the thousands in the windows and on the streets. And now I sit and wonder about the secret of it all. And the multitudes

who watched and wept—sponsors, maids, matrons, sons' and daughters' memorial organizations, State officials, militia, school children, friends, visitors—why all these and why the emotion that found them?

Victory and the recollection of victory have enormous moving power over the hearts of men. But here was no victory.

Ideals of fundamental and everlasting righteousness bind men together. But the post-surrender history of the Confederacy has shown no effort to keep the old issues alive. Slavery was the superficial issue, States' rights was the real issue, but nobody thought of either one last week.

The pure and simple tragedy of a lost cause, if it was a good cause, might in some cases have moved these tremendous tides of feeling. But tragedy is no longer uppermost in our thought of the great conflict. War and reconstruction times have fled away from the minds of men, and our country has been re-

built; nor do we consider that any principle of commanding importance died in 1865.

Well, why have these men gathered, then, and why have we gathered with them? Has it been in celebration of courage? Yes, partly, of course. Has it been a sort of homage to old friendships tried in the fire? Yes, in part. And has the age of the veterans, with the realization that the thin gray line must soon fade out, won our tears? Yes, all these have contributed to what we have seen and felt. But I believe that there is a cause which explains more than any of these or more than all of them together.

As I have watched the old soldiers in their exaltation, each one has seemed to say: "There was a time when I was more than myself. My life then lost its commonplaceness. My individual being was swallowed up in the life of the whole. You might not think it, but once I was glorified by self-surrender. I gave myself away! It was my divine moment! See

here the habiliments of my glory—gun, knapsack, canteen, music, gray! Old women marched saying: “Hear, ye thousands, I too, forgot my narrow self-life! I, too, suffered for a cause!” Old negroes marched, saying each: “I also invoke the memory of the time when I lost myself!” And all the thousands who marched and watched and all the charged air seemed to say: “Hail, self-sacrifice! Hail to the divinity of losing self!”

# The Spirituality of Right Business

HAT God hath joined together let not man put asunder." We have divorced spirituality and business in much of our thinking. The old Hebrew prophet, in his picture of the perfect times, had "Holiness unto the Lord" on the bells of all the horses. And Jesus lived and taught a life in which all days and all activities were alike sacred.

Now, I am not making a plea for honesty in business, or for larger contributions for Christian work from business, or even for better treatment of employees. I am not making a plea for anything. I am saying that proper business is, in its very essence, spiritual. I am not preaching to business, but trying to interpret business.

Above all, then, any business to be properly so named must be a serving business. Service is more and more emphasized in men's talk about their business. And it is not idle advertising; it is because business is discovering its reason for being and the only basis on which it can continue. Business runs errands for us

to the ends of the earth, it carts the world's produce to our gates, it gathers the planet's raw things and converts them into the finished and usable, spreading them out for our choosing. Any man, if he has eyes to see, in any place where business or profession is plied, might discern Jesus going about with His towel.

There is another way in which right business appeals to me more and more as essentially spiritual. Watch a young man entering upon the work of his life. He begins with inner troublings and tight-strung nerves. He is saying to himself: "Among all these battling for place, can I find a foothold? Among all these voices is there some little area of melody left for me? Oh, will God take note of me? Will He accept my small life in the midst of all this universe of life?" Then watch him as he slowly gains place; watch him as he stands where the gold stream flows faster and faster into his hands, and tell me if the exaltation that burns in his eyes and sings in his soul comes only from the money. It comes partly

from the contemplation of the good he can do, of the beneficent power he can wield; but deeper down still is another thing. It is the unspeakable realization that he has found a place in the eternal scheme. The money is the tribute of circumstance to his fitness to live. "My place! My place! I have a place in God's world!" is the song of his soul.

There is yet another peculiarly spiritual ambition and satisfaction in business. It is the desire on the part of business men to run a rhythmic business. It is noticeable that many put back into the business every cent that can be spared. They are accustomed to defend this on the ground of investment to yield later. In reality this desire to conduct a business rhythmically and to expend all that is necessary thereto, is a part of the primal passion to keep in step with the musical order, observable in the universe all the way from electron to constellation.

Money is a by-product in real business. Business is spiritual, because life is spiritual.

## A Species of Immortality

**I**N those days we all followed in her train. We knew that she was builded for immortality. Where the rest of us were clay she was of a sort of skyey stuff; where we crawled she flew.

Her beauty was of the kind that moves and flashes. I do not know that her features analyzed separately would have been beautiful, because I never analyzed them separately and doubt that anybody ever did. I do not know that her face and body in repose would have been beautiful. I think they would. But I never saw them so. Or, if I did, it was a repose so intimate with action that there could scarce be separation. There was a lithe and infinite young power about her which you always saw or expected immediately to see bounding into expression. Health, I suppose, is after all the sovereign beauty. And she surely had that. I never knew such lustre of face and eyes, such vibrance of voice, such pulse of body.



Her whole being glowed. And for my part, I know nothing under the stars more utterly or strangely beautiful than the blooming of a young woman. "Infinity above thee broods," Stephen Phillips has Idas say to Marpessa.

Then I met her again after a long time. In words, we talked of old times, of old friends and of a thousand commonplaces. In spirit, however, I said, with perfectly level tones:

"Mary, where has your beauty gone? In the old days you had the fiber of a young rose and the color of life itself. The remains are here, of course, but the bloom—where is the bloom?"

As if in answer, she said:

"I want you to see my children." She took me to an opening in a rose hedge and there hidden from view were the children playing. Then in her spirit she said:

"You ask about my beauty. Yonder it is. Do you see the bloom on those cheeks, the glory in those eyes?"

She sang for me with a smile and a jest.

I said: "Fine! Fine!" But my spirit said: "You have lost the talisman, Mary. The strange thrill is gone. Even your speaking voice—."

As if in answer, at that moment there came shouts and ringing laughter from behind the hedge. As if in further answer, the youngest came toddling in, with the loveliest stream of baby talk that ever blessed this earth.

Mary sat down as if tired. My spirit said: "Ah, the old power is tamed at last."

But her spirit said back again: "No, it is not! No, it is not! Yonder it is! Yonder it is!"

And across the lawn came the children, running and screaming with laughter. The children of her body, of her mind and of her soul—strong, sturdy and shining with the heavenly passion of being young.

"He that loseth his life shall find it."

## Salvation

**S**ALVATION in much of our thinking has been a very meager and meat-stripped word. It has often meant some sort of tag to prevent the vague inspectors of another world from pitching us over into the wrong heap. It has been all negative, all snatching away from the jaws of hell—nothing beyond that. Or, when it has been positive, it has not gone below the surface. Still the inspector's tag idea and the mere getting into heaven.

The Biblical writers speak uniformly of salvation, not from hell, but from sin—the thing that makes hell. And that is logical. We do not want to be saved from jail; we want to be saved from the misdoing which sends us to jail. Of course, incidentally, we are saved from jail, but that is only an incident. Too much we have feared the pain and disgrace of being found out and punished. Too little we have feared and hated the pain and the disgrace of sin itself. We have interpreted our word to suit our poor, mean thinking.

But even so, it is not enough to be saved from sin. It is not enough to tear down; one must build up. We must be saved unto holiness. We must be put in position where we not only do not the things that we ought not to do, but where we do the things that we ought to do. And here is limitless field for us. Here are "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Christ was not merely free from sin; He was full of holiness.

Salvation is normalization. The old sin, with its slime, its filth, its disgrace, its horror, is smitten with a death blow, and righteousness is given its slow but sure ascendancy. The feeling of forgiveness steals over us, like the morning to watchers through the night, like sweet music after frightful discord, like sleep after pain, like peace after war. We begin to have that communion with our Father which is the very deep essence of life, the very breath of the soul. Slowly it dawns upon us that our dreams have been but promises now fulfilling,

that life is really infinity of length and breadth and form and color, and that God has given the soul wings and sense for it all. Before us and with us, in mystical, but in abundant and vivid presence, goes our Lord. He has come in to sup with us and to be with us alway. And as we walk with Him in the way our hearts burn within us and we are changed from glory to glory even into His image.

This is salvation both for the world which now is and for the world which shall be.

## On the Death of a Child

HERE came a day when the lilies were glad. They two had met and their souls were one. It was a high time for him for he was loving another better than himself. It was a high time for her for it was the great day of faith. They said the one to the other: "Surely Heaven is bending low. This is more than life." The moonlight dreamt on the lilies, and the world was young—so young.

There came a day when the lilies trembled, and then were still. They two went to the valley of tenderness and of death. He staid at the gate, but she went in. And the lilies were still. And lo, the gates swung wide and she came back. Wrestling with the enemy had made her pale; talking with God had made her white. In her soul were things that never could be said, and in her arms was God's gift to her and her gift to men. It was a wondrous high time for them, for they were three. They twain were giving themselves in order that another might be. And they walked together through the lilies, saying the one to the other: "Miracles of miracles! That which was perfect

has been made more perfect. The other was happiness, but this is rapture." And the lilies were glad—so glad.

There came a day when all the lilies in the garden trembled, and then were still—so still. They three wrestled in the darkness. They three were swept into the valley. They two fought and prayed to have and to hold their own. Then they two stood and waited and watched. Then they two came back. And the gates were closed. And the lilies were still—yet still.

Then they two went away, hand in hand, through the lilies. They were lonely—so lonely. The sun was grey, and the heart of life was dead. But they said, the one to the other: "God was good to send the little messenger even though the message was so soon said. Let us be glad."

And lo, from out the lilies came their spirit child to walk with them. And they shall have their own forever and forever. There shall be no fear, and their tears shall grow sweeter and sweeter.

## Beneath the Resurrection

**T**HIS is Easter morning. But back of Easter morning is Good Friday, the day of death. And Good Friday is but the end and summit of the years of abiding death, through which our Master walked. The cross is the symbol of His life of sacrifice, because on it and through it He bore the final brunt of pain, and said: "It is finished."

He chose to lead men; to be victor for Himself and others. And he who leads men must walk with men. Separate from sin He was, but never once in all His thought or life separate from sinners. "Numbered with the transgressors" is the word which tells the tale of all His days. It is the universal law. Who would lift men must live the life of men. Jesus merely exemplified it by making Himself one with humanity. Where men were there was He. What their eyes saw, His eyes saw. What their hearts felt, His heart felt. He chose to lead men and He therefore walked with men.



But he who walks with men must walk in tears. I do not know why; I make no attempt to explain it. I only know that somehow suffering is in the deeps of life. I only know that somehow suffering is precedent to knowledge and to power. All spiritual kinship, all real and abiding comradeship, sends its roots down into pain.

That mysterious tragedy and tragic mystery, sin, partly explains, of course, for sin is the parent of pain and sin is universal. That strange fact, which we more and more feel, the solidarity of the race also partly explains. Humanity is one. Every part feels with the whole and the whole feels with every part. But even so, there are elements here in this mystery of the fundamental quality of suffering which shall remain unexplained. He who loves most suffers most. And he who suffers most wields the most of power. Jesus exemplified the universal law when He walked in tears with men.

Do not think to triumph without merging your life in the life of the race. Come out from your monastic cell; come away from your place of exclusiveness; come down from your hill of privilege and of pride. Live the life of the world.

And do not think to live the life of the world without the discipline of pain. No suffering, no reigning; no tears, no crown. The triumph of the resurrection had not been except for the travail of Calvary. Power is built on pain.

## Recognition in Heaven

**I**MMORTALITY certainly implies full consciousness, and full consciousness certainly implies memory. The power of memory constitutes a large part of all mental processes. With memory gone, life itself in any abundance would be gone as well. Now in that other time God is not going to afflict us and mock us with memories of the days that are dead. If He is true to Himself and true to the longings which He has put in our bosoms He is going to surround us with the very objects themselves around which memory twines.

The things which linger perhaps most persistently in the mind, after reading the words of Jesus about Heaven, are that eternal life begins now and that it is a lifting of this life into eternal relationship and into eternal worthwhileness. Both of these carry with them the idea of the continuance in some sort of life as it now is. "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also." "Father,

I will that they also be with me where I am," breathe the very air of an eternal comradeship with each other, as well as with Himself.

The fact that we are to have spiritual bodies speaks rather for than against heavenly recognition. Of course, nobody knows what a spiritual body is. It is not necessarily a contradiction in terms, however. Some bodies here are more spiritual than others. A spiritual body, one might say, is a body perfectly suited to the uses of its spirit and entirely expressive of the nature of its spirit. Those "whom we have loved long since and lost awhile," we shall meet again; and we shall know them heart to heart, for the flesh shall no longer veil the face of the soul or hinder the freedom of its action.

Shall we know in Heaven those whom we have loved on earth? Oh, yes: otherwise Heaven would not be Heaven and love would not be love. Heaven is the full-orbed life of the soul and love is stronger than death. A Heaven without those spiritual companionships, which have made the very deeps of life, would not be

God's Heaven. And love which would not span the Narrow River would be like a vase wrought of emerald by a hand of infinite patience and skill, to be held for one day and then dashed to the rubbish heap forever.

God wastes nothing. He is the Gatherer even of the fragments. The conservation of matter and the conservation of energy have led men in these latter days to speak with assurance about the conservation of personality. And love is the pearl of personality. God will not waste it. God will not build it to throw away. Particularly when the hearts of His children beg for it. If that other life is a fuller life than this, then on its perfect strand we must clasp our own with a fuller knowledge and a fuller love.

## The Moral Man

WE have talked *ad infinitum* about the inability of morality to save a man. Of course, this is true, for morality is not the cause or ground of salvation, strictly speaking, but the effect. Salvation is of God. It is His free gift wrought by His divine power. It requires nothing less than the creative power of God to change a human heart, to make it good instead of bad, to give it victory over sin, to give it a lasting ideal of holiness. This God will do for any of His creatures who will accept the gift. When, through faith, God has been allowed His way with the heart, then morality begins to result.

It is true, also, that there may be a morality which is entirely outward. A person may observe all customary decorum, and still at heart be unsound, unkind and untrue. Such a man would surely be out of harmony with all good conscience and with God Himself.

There is a morality, moreover, which falls tragically short of the requirements God makes of His children, and which we in our better moments make of ourselves. A man may pay his debts, do no murder, covet not his neighbor's wife, and yet be all ignorant of those lovely heights to which God beckons us. Sympathy, humility, unselfishness, noble, outgoing love, passion to be pure—all these may be paradises untried. And, of course, no one of us has them except in part; but "a man's reach must exceed his grasp." What he would—his ideal, his dream—measures him.

And now to the other side.

We must remember that there are men, multitudes of men, growing multitudes of men, who love God and Christ, but not our God and our Christ. Our presentation, our life, our churches, it may be, they will have none of. What a poor spectacle we sometimes make, telling our sorry tale of the Lord, and then condemning men if they do not accept. Oh, if we could but tell the story as it is, if we could hold

Him up in His true essence, the ends of the earth would heave to His following, and the ancient seas would leave their beds.

This further: There is a slightly different class. These are not distressed or driven away by our inadequate representation of God, yet they have never taken the conventional steps of allying themselves with Christian forces. They bear all the gracious fruits of the Christ life, yet they cannot be placed among the denominations. Shall we, then, regard them as knowing nothing of the salvation of God? Oh, no! Let us walk delicately in their presence, for the Lord has been before us. He has wrought in the night, away from the eyes and the ears of men. These are His children, though even they may know it not. "By their fruits ye shall know them."



## To a Wife's Picture

I CAN look into your eyes now and say what I will. I find it unnecessary to erect my customary weak defences, or to avoid the issue, or to cover thoughts with words. Nor can you in any way stay my speech. You cannot run away from me; you cannot turn aside; you cannot rear the old barrier of self-consciousness, which separates between souls.

And yet this is yourself to which I speak. It seems your picture, but behind it you are. Indeed, it is more truly you than you are yourself. For here is no flesh, no convention, no household duty, no hurry. Here only you.

Now, tell me, soul of my wife, looking out from this picture with that steady gaze—how goes the world with you? What think you now in the very deeps of you? What is your inner report of the Great Adventure?

As I look at you in this picture, and as I look at you sometimes, when asleep or with averted face, I recall with vividness akin to

pain that wonderful night when with rare recklessness I asked you for yourself. And you gave.

You gave into my hands the packet of your dreams—those gossamer, fairy things, woven out of the light that filtered through your childhood and girlhood and maiden years. You said: "They are mine, they are yours; we shall make them come true together."

You have accepted my successes and called them mine, you have accepted my failures and called them ours. You have been content with whatever place I was able to win for you. Oh, of course, of course, that is a commonplace to you. There is no self-pity in you.

But tell me this: "Have you been compelled to accept a sort of compromise? Are you finding a fulfillment in life? You must know that this is life itself that we are living now. This is the very castle of your dreams. Some of the roundness is gone out of your face, some of the brimming wine out of your body, gray shows here and there in your hair, your

eyes tell me that you have seen—that you have seen. Now, whisper—Are you finding the golden fleece? Is the bag really at the end of the rainbow? Is the cruise discovering its lanes of light, its purple, its dying splendors, its living wonder? Or do I see in your face a patience which with practical feet, has followed disillusionment?

I have led you into this “new life which is old.” Have I done it with enough of awe? I have invaded with you the last great circle of dreams. Have I done it with wonder and worship? I have accepted your life. Have I held it bound or have I loosed its wings?

Oh, soul of my wife, are there any of the dreams left? Perhaps there is time yet.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me this day, O Lord, to be like some instrument of music, tremulously awaiting the Master's hand. May my eyes be watchful for Thy face, my ears alert for Thy voice. Through all the din and the hurry and the strain may I be silent unto God and wait for the breathing of Thy spirit across the strings of my life. In Christ's name. Amen.



O God, control my thoughts this day. Help me to think on the things that are pure and honorable and lovely. Do Thou take up Thine own residence in me. May my mind be Thy temple and may Thy train fill it and Thy glory irradiate it. And may all unclean things be scourged from before the presence of Thy holiness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Grant me the vision, O Lord, during this day and all the days to penetrate the disguise of any suffering and discern the lineaments of Almighty God: Give me to welcome my distresses as strong friends come to teach me Thy will. If I have sinned, make me humble to confess it; if I have erred, make me wise to learn my lesson; if Thou art purifying and polishing, make me brave to bear. Amen.



O Thou great Husbandman of the vineyard, teach me that if I am in my appointed place among the vines, my labor is a part of the great diapason of the world's order and harmony. May I walk in conscious step with the charioted sun and with the singing spheres. Give me to join the company of all the stalwart sons of toil who from the morning until now have obeyed the universal law and done the work of the world. In the name of the Carpenter of Nazareth. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Grant me the grace of gratitude today, O Lord Most High. Make me thankful for work, God's elixir; make me thankful for friends, God's ministers; make me thankful for home, God's fold; make me thankful for Thy self, my soul's life. May I bathe even unto-ward things in my thanksgiving until they shall become messengers of Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



May I waste no time today, O Lord. May I rest but not be idle; may I play but not trifle; may I be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Teach me that in my own soul Thou markest the reward of every hour well spent and the punishment of every hour lost. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Turn back the years, O Lord, and make me a little child today. Help me to laugh again Roll off the burden of my days. Relieve the tension of my life. Make me willing to learn, ready to change, able to trust. May I take Thy hand and go singing through all these golden hours. For Christ's sake. Amen.



O Lord, Thou hast already reminded me of Thyself this morning in the waking of Thy wonderful world, the continued beating of my heart, the warm presence of those I love. May I walk with Thee all this day and think of Thee and rejoice in Thee. And at night may I find my rest in Thy everlasting arms. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Deliver me, O my God, from the feeling that I am finished. Stir me with the realization that life is forever plastic. May I by Thy grace and in Thy communion never cease changing my soul's apparel. Lead me, O Great Guide, out of weakness into strength, out of ugliness into beauty, out of dishonor into glory. In Christ's name. Amen.



Give me to value the power of speech, O Lord, as some royal gift. Thou hast conferred it and polished it through the ages for Thy chosen. Help me to use it for purposes of light and love. Guard Thou my lips and bid back the unclean, the unkind, the unholy. In Christ's name. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Let me not lose, O God, the sense of wonder. Keep me fresh for the enchantments of this Land of Life. May I walk this day a rediscoverer of colors and fragrances, of heights and depths, of fidelities and loves, of God bending over us and Christ walking with us. In His name. Amen.



If I am weary this day, O Lord—too tired to work or think or pray—give me to lean back in Thine arms, and await without murmuring the time of Thy refreshing. Let me come to Thee as a child to its mother at night, spent but not impatient, worn but not perplexed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Thou Great Physician of the soul, search out my disease and declare it unto me. I would know my true condition. And then do Thou apply the remedy, be it balm or acid or knife. For I would walk with Thee in newness of life, Thou Holy One of Israel. In Jesus' name. Amen.



O God, redeem this day from commonplaceness. May every difficulty be an adventure, every temptation a challenge. May work be a crusade. May meeting my fellowmen be like striking hands with kings. May living be walking with God. Grant it for the sake of Him who promised the abundant life. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Lord, Thou requirest of me more than I can do; and in this I find my hope. For Thou wouldst not mock me with commands which I cannot obey, or with visions which I cannot realize. I must then reach out helpless hands to Thee and in Thy power be more than myself. Amen.



Surround me this day, O Lord, with the multitude of the world's worshippers. May I be as with Thy millions in some mighty temple. Thrill me with the great songs, still me with the vast worship; and may our rising petitions make common cry at the very gates of Heaven. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I pray Thee, O Lord, to help me make this the best day I have ever lived. May I fashion a high shining pattern out of it. In its building may I reject every thought that is not good, every word that is not gentle and sincere, every act that is not courageous and kind. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



O God, I pray for courage today; courage to be honest, courage to be tender, courage to be faithful. Give me the courage to obey God rather than men, even when the men are friends; the courage to acknowledge when I am wrong; the courage to battle, to bear or to wait, as Thou wilt. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Gracious God, give me wisdom to choose the things which are highest. May I crowd out the bad; then the merely harmless; and may even the good give place to the better and the best. Visit me with a divine discontent with yesterday and a heavenly ambition for today. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



Keep back Thy servant from the sin of presumption, O God. Save me from arrogance that I may still be a learner from all men and from Thee. May I compare myself only with those who are better than I, and rebuke my pride every day by keeping company with Christ. In His name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Thou Great Leveller of rank, help me to look into the faces of all men and women today, and know them as my brothers and sisters, children of a common Father. May I give them not pity but love; not charity but my own self—heart and life and all. For the sake of my Elder Brother. Amen.



Help me, O Lord, to be satisfied with strength and grace for this one day. Build a pale about it and let me work and pray inside. Keep out the despair of yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. And do Thou come in and lead me through one quiet, strong day. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Teach me, O Lord, the divinity of quiet. Let me learn from Thyself, who in silence changest the seas, levellest the mountains, hold-est the worlds in place, and bendest the hearts of men. Let me learn from my Master who lifted not His voice in the streets. In His name. Amen.



Help me, O Lord, to remember my blessings today. Stir me lest Thy mercies grow common with me. Surprise me with how my prayers have been answered, my hopes met, my needs satisfied. Melt me with the memory of what I was and the vision of what I might have been, but for Thy grace. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Thou great Sower of the seed, let my heart be Thy field. Soften it with the gentle rains; woo it with Thy sunshine; enrich it in Thy myriad ways. And do Thou sow, O Sower. Then feed the growing grain until it shall be golden for Thee and for Thy world. In Christ's name. Amen.



Help me today, O Most High, to be patient with Thee in Thy slow processes. May I not expect the coming of the Kingdom of God in a day. But may I lay my life down in the quiet confidence that not one stroke or prayer or tear shall be lost. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me to remember, O God, that men form an estimate of Thee from me. Fashion me then, if it pleases Thee, into comely handiwork that I may commend my Maker unto men. But, O Thou, whose eyes are in my soul, may I desire only the good of men and the glory of God. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



O God, help me to be honest today; honest with men, myself and Thee. If I have planned dishonest dealings stop me now. If during the day temptation takes me suddenly, give me strength. Rebuke me for false attitudes, fashionable insincerities, poor make-believes, silly poses. Make me true, O great God. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, O God, for this marvel called forgiveness. I have lain among the pots; yet Thou biddest me sit at Thy side, and I look into Thy face with confidence. O Thou, who forgettest what I have been and callest to my mind what I may be, I bring Thee my humble praise. Amen.



Help me, O God, to try one more time. Give me added strength for one more great effort. Teach me that the gold may be within one spade-thrust, that the crust may even now be trembling to break, that the adversary may already be turning to flee. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Show me, O God, the two men who live in me—the one doubting and fearing and sneering and hating; the other believing and daring and smiling and loving. And help me, O Builder of Men, to know the nobler part as Thy plan for me, and to name it my true self. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



O Thou, who takest pains with dewdrops, bird notes, fleeting evening colors, and the myriad tiny things which go unseen and unheard, teach me Thy ways. Grant me to guard against little sins, and to condescend to little virtues. Give me time for the little deeds and words and thoughts that adorn and enrich life. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Solace me, O Lord, with the reflection that after awhile there will be more leisure. In Thy presence I shall have time to think, to learn, to walk with Thee, to enjoy old friendships and loves, to sit with the gracious spirits whom I have desired but whose faces I have here only glimpsed or seen not at all. Amen.



Forbid, O Lord, that I should fall short by reason of a low ideal. Help me to yearn for the best that ever has been or is or can be; and with a yearning which cannot be denied. May I set my eyes on Christ and be transfigured into His image from glory to glory. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Create within me, O Lord, a clean heart that all the issues of my life may be pure. If Thou wilt but cleanse the central fountain the little streams must needs be sweet. Make me over again that filthiness and meanness and selfishness and pride may be contrary and offensive to my very nature. In Christ's name. Amen.



I thank Thee, O Lord, that all is well; that Thou holdest in leash the unkind forces to move only at Thy will; that failure and disease and death can work me no lasting harm, since I am Thine and they touch me only at Thy pleasure. Help me to rest in my Father's house. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, may I look on men with Thine eyes, seeing in them not what is but what may become. May I remember what miracles Thou hast wrought with the world and with me. Help me then to inquire not what men can do, but what Thou canst do with them. For Christ's sake. Amen.



I thank Thee, O God, that Thou art infinite. Thou art not exhausted with holding the worlds in place and administering the affairs of the universe, but hast time for sparrows and for me. O Thou Listener to little voices, Thou wilt not forget even the poorest and weakest of Thy children, for Thy name is Father. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me to come today, O Lord and Father, asking no boon but desiring simply to walk with Thee and feel myself in Thy presence. Without Thee I am confused by many voices, I wander among vague paths, I am dismayed. With Thee I am satisfied. Thou art rest and home and heaven to my soul. Amen.



Lord, I am happy when I remember Thy patience with me. Thou hast forgiven my sins, Thou hast borne with my ignorance and weakness. Thou hast labored with me and spent Thy skill upon me. And my soul sings with the confidence that Thou wilt not forsake me, that Thou wilt still keep me for Thine own. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Grant me, O Lord, to know that my field overlaps no other man's. Teach me how distinct are our labors. And may I rejoice in the success of my fellow, since we work together in the common cause of light. Teach me how his glory adds to my own. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



O Thou, whose ear is ever open to the cry of Thy people, hear me when I call. O Thou, who carriest the lambs in Thy bosom, have mercy upon me in my need. O Thou Mighty One of Israel, fight with me and give me the victory in my battle. Amen.



Help me, O Lord, to have the victory over my enemies today. If they think I shall be angry, grant me calmness for Thy name's sake. If they expect vengeance and hate let me surprise with forgiveness and love. For Christ's sake. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, help me to be faithful today—faithful to task, to family, to friends, to all men, to God. Give me to work, to love, to live, as under Thine eye, and as waiting Thy word upon what I do. Help me to build to-day as upon my eternal house. For Christ's sake. Amen.



Help me, O Lord, to go quietly with Thee today, and in Thy strength to meet all things. Help me not to complain if the burden grows heavy, or to whine if my disaster comes. Help me, O great God, to play the game through, and to meet Thee in the evening unashamed. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me, O Lord, to cling to the confidence that Thou lovest me. Whatever Thou sendest me, of difficulty or hardship or pain, may I find folded and hidden in it some love message from God. Sweeten all my days with the reflection that Thou art laboring with me to make me better. For Christ's sake. Amen.



Grant, O Lord, that I may use all of the heavenly colors and the lovely melodies and the fair forms of this day as invitations to be sweeter and gentler and finer. Speak to me through all the beauty of Thy world, and may Thy voice echo in all my living. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Give me eyes today, O Lord, to behold the beauties of Thy world; give me ears to hear the songs that are singing; give me nostrils to breathe the fragrances that float in the air; give me a mind and heart to enjoy a great and gracious God. In Christ's name. Amen.



I thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast put within me ambitions which have not been satisfied. I thank Thee for my soul's unrest. For it tells me that I am to build far better than my present house, that I am but a part of the way on a great journey. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Impress upon me, O God, that I am not alone in trusting Thee. Show me the millions of men stretching back in the ages gone who have lived with their faces toward Heaven; and tell me over again that not one whose confidence was staid on Thee has ever been betrayed or forgotten. In Christ's name. Amen.



I thank Thee, O Lord, for the abiding freshness of life—for the young and the new that come up every day with morning faces as if the world had just been born. Give me a heart, O God, to abide with Thee in a youth which shall last forever. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, Thou art infinitely beyond me. In Thee I have an everlasting goal. I attain Thee but still Thou art unattainable. Though I should inquire in Thy temple through all eternity there will yet be secrets for me. Though I should struggle toward Thy perfections forever there will yet be untried heights. Amen.



Teach me, O Lord, that my business here is not to seek happiness, but to do my duty. May I perform Thy will with single eye; and if Thou sendest me happiness, help me to count it an extra gift, a radiant guest of whom I am not worthy, and to give Thee all the praise. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Give me grace, O Lord, to stay in my hard place and fight it out. Teach me that the posts of difficulty are the posts of honor. Then grant me a song of rejoicing, O Thou God of Battle, that Thou trustest me with the difficult and the dangerous and the delicate. In Christ's name. Amen.



Encourage me, O Lord, through my discouragements. Teach me that high aims and noble programmes must always suffer somewhat of defeat. Teach me that the ministry of failure is to instill humility and to keep me toiling when otherwise I should have slept. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, O my God, for friends and friendly associations. Thou hast not doomed me to live alone, but hast surrounded me with hearts that answer to mine. I am upheld and comforted and made rich by the company of those who walk with me. Help me to live understandingly in this foregleam of Heaven. In Christ's name. Amen.



I thank Thee, O Lord, that I do not have to know the close reasons underlying all Thy dealings with me. I am glad that I can trust to Thy love and wisdom. I ask to know only so much as will make me sensitive to Thy voice and responsive to Thy will. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Every day, O Lord, may I hear anew Thy voice saying, Follow me. And may I listen and wonder and obey, each time with new joy and new resolve. Teach me how natural, how inevitable that I should follow Thee; for Thou hast made me for Thyself and my only rest is at Thy right hand. In Thy name. Amen.



Save me from all murmuring, O my God. Show me how bountifully Thou hast dealt with me and how vastly the mercies outweigh the misfortunes. Turn my complaints to praise at the remembrance of Thy loving kindness. Make me glad in the shine of Thy face and the show of Thy favor. For Christ's sake. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me, O my God, to be at the business of life now. May I cease preparing to live and begin to live. Thunder in my ears that this is life now and here. And send me forth, O Lord, to achieve my purity, to do my kindness, to walk with my God this very day. In Christ's name. Amen.



My Father, keep my soul on the lookout for Thee. May I climb to hilltops for a glimpse of Thee; and may I seek Thee in the valleys. May I expect Thee in the temple and at my place of toil. May I be dissatisfied in any experience of life until I have seen Thy face. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Start me out afresh today, O Lord. May life have the old-time thrill! May the world be young again for me! Restore my fond hopes. May victory be as dazzling and virtue as splendid as they were. Give me a new heaven and a new earth! For Christ's sake. Amen.



Help me, O Lord, to approach men and problems from above. May I urge divine considerations and heavenly motives. Grant that my appeal may be to the highest and the sweetest. I would weigh with the scales of God. I would come out from His presence and look with His eyes. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Give me an understanding heart for Thy mysteries, O Lord. May I read Thy handwriting on clouds and flowers, sea-depths, mountain-heights and wandering worlds above. May I follow Thee in the urge of the ages toward the light. But may I not neglect to seek Thy best message this day in the men and the women with whom I shall walk. Amen.



O Lord, preserve me from trying to do too much today. Remind me that it is not how much, but how well, how sweetly, how contentedly, that avails. Remind me that there is another life in which I shall labor. Give me to do my work quietly. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me to rest, O Lord, if I am tired.  
Help me to trust Thee to restore my soul.  
May I wait on Thee without repining. May  
I sit with Thee until Thou art ready to begin  
work again. May I camp with Thee until  
Thou art ready for the march. May I lay me  
down and sleep until Thou shalt call. For  
Christ's sake. Amen.



O God, I thank Thee for the morning with  
its sparkling air, its dew-washed earth, its train  
of fresh mercies, its new chance. May I an-  
swer its call, may I leap to its challenge. May  
I bathe myself in its promise and its balm. In  
Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, help me to do my duty today, and trust Thee with the results. May I ask not what will come of it, but whether it is Thy will; not whether it is the custom of men but whether it is the command of God. Grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Show me the mystery, O Lord, of how I gain by giving. Teach me the lesson of flowers and streams, which live in their riot of beauty and joy because they give themselves away. Teach me the lesson of all this giving world and of Thy great giving heart. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me, O Lord, in my fight with temptation today. Give me wisdom to penetrate the disguises under which evil will be presented. Teach me how false are the promises, and how wretched the rewards of sin. Grant me courage and constancy and a sense of Thy nearness. For Christ's sake. Amen.



O Lord, help me to put myself in the other man's place today. Help me to appreciate his difficulties, his misunderstandings, his disadvantages. Enable me to see why he misinterprets my motives, why he does not see as I see. Give me breadth and quickness of sympathy. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, use me this day as Thou wilt. Take me as I am or change me according to Thy pleasure. Call me to large task or to small, as suits Thy wisdom. Let me see the results of my labor, or not; let me be conscious of Thine employ, or not. Only use me, O great God. Amen.



O God, free me from the dangers of trying to make myself what I ought to be. Deliver me from the artificiality and the anxiety of imitating Thee or following Thy instruction. Do Thou grow up in me, and may my words and acts and attitudes flow naturally from a life which is hid with Christ in God. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Grant me today, O God, a hopeful spirit. May I expect much of myself, because I am Thine. May I expect much of men, because they are Thine. May I expect much of the world, because it is Thine. May I rejoice in hope because Thou art in Thy heaven. In Christ's name. Amen.



My Father, I thank Thee that I do not have to be learned or wealthy or strong to gain Thine ear or win Thy favor. I thank Thee that Thy presence is open to me and Thy communion free. I thank Thee that my need and my desire admit me to God. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Breathe upon me, O gracious Father, a spirit of love for all men. May' I not ask if they can love in return; may I not ask if they are worthy of love; may I not ask if they are already loved by others. May I love as Christ would love if He walked here again. Amen.



Thou invitest me when the arm of flesh has failed. Thou welcomest me when my resources are gone. Thou askest not after my record or my ability, but only my willingness to receive. O happiness, that Thou art near me against my time of weakness or despair! Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, abide with me in the morning of this day, when the world is new and I am fresh; abide with me in the noon of this day, when the world is hot and I am burdened; abide with me in the evening of this day, when the world is old and I am tired. Amen.



O Lord, help me to be as gentle in my home as I am abroad. Help me to be as gracious to my own as if I had not yet achieved them. Forbid that the close should grow common, that the possessed should lose its perfections. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, help me in my misery not only to be comforted by remembering that happier days must come; but help me to dig into my desert until I shall find living water. Show me the song at the heart of my sorrow. May my very grief unprison my soul. For Christ's sake. Amen.



O God, my Father, make this a feast day for my soul. Feed me on the bread of life, and may the living streams flow at my feet. Strengthen my life with the hidden manna. Delight my heart with tastes of heaven. May I sup with Thee in heavenly places. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, strengthen me to meet any trial that may come this day. And begin to strengthen me for the great tragic trials that must come after awhile. Make today a foundation stone for all the days which are to be. Help me to lay by in store a little peace and a little power. Amen.



Almighty God, may some of Thy glory shine through me. May the poor dwelling be made splendid by the royal Tenant. May men look through me and get some glimpse of God. Grant, O gracious Lord, to cleanse me that Thou mayest live in me and make my life Thy tabernacle. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me in my business today, O Lord. Give me firmness without unkindness, resourcefulness without dishonesty, ambition without avarice, earnestness without anxiety. May I rejoice in the privilege of work. May I seek contentment rather than great gain. May I do all after counsel with my senior partner, God. In Christ's name. Amen.



I thank Thee, my Father, for the love and wisdom which have restrained Thee from answering all my prayers. I thank Thee that Thou hast heard my prayers for strength rather than my prayer for a lighter burden; that Thou hast given me trust rather than riches, and communion with Thee rather than freedom from tears. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Show me Thy wide world, O my God, and the deep heavens; and reveal to me how foolish are my petty cares. Let me look up and be ashamed. Release me from my little round by the vision of far horizons. Make me big enough and calm enough to live rightly in this universe of Thine. In Christ's name. Amen.



Teach me, O Lord, the difficult art of forgetting myself. May I learn the blessedness of being interested in another's appearance, in another's pleasure, in another's success. Give me the freedom and the courage which come from fighting my brother's battles rather than my own. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I rejoice, O God, my Father, at the manner in which Thy service satisfies the soul. What wealth comes even in my poverty, what rest even in the midst of labors, when I am walking in the way with Thee. Gracious Lord, Thou makest me to feel that I am fulfilling my destiny. Amen.



O God, give me contentment. Help me to work hard enough to find satisfaction in my labor. Help me to live sincerely enough to fear no man. May I dig deep enough in my place to discover the gold; and climb high enough to see the stars. May I live as if permanently. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, my Father, for the bird-song, though the voice be soon hushed; I thank Thee for the flower, though the petals be soon fallen. I thank Thee for my joys even though they may be short-lived, and for my loved ones even though Thou mayest require them again. Amen.



O God, help me to fear myself—that lower self which seeks to have the mastery of me. Aid me in detecting and warding off the first faint advances. Keep me ever watchful, as one who guards a precious treasure. Give me confidence, O my Father, that the battle is Thine as well as mine. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Lord, when I look on war's horrid front, on man's inhumanity to man, on the tears and the sin of the world, I am afraid and troubled. But when I turn my thought to Thee, with Thy wisdom and love and might, I am comforted and sustained. May my last look be at God. In Christ's name. Amen.



Grant, my Father, that the crowds of people, the many voices, the invitations to forget, the fascination of glittering things, may cause me to stay close by Thy side like a little child. Keep me cool and quiet, ready for the gentle touch of Thy hand, for the soft tones of Thy voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O great Captain, help me to fill my place in the ranks. Give me loyalty to my Leader. Give me remembrance of the great cause. Thrill me with the concerted step of the vast army, with the fields of gleaming banners, with the shouts of overcoming that must be after awhile. In His name. Amen.



My Father, may I rest in Thee more; may I be silent unto Thee; may I be dumb before Thee. May I have less complaining before Thee and more communion with Thee. May I talk to Thee less and listen to Thee more. Speak to me in the way, comfort me, guide me. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, O God, that Thou callest me to a full life. Thou desirest the richest and largest things for Thy chosen. Help me to live on the heights. Give me to accept the universe as my dwelling place, immortality as my portion, God as my friend. In Christ's name. Amen.



O Lord, keep me in love with my world—with the men I work with and walk with, with the circumstances that surround me, with the God who is over me. May my heart be in loving, warm, intimate sympathy with the labor and the life of my time. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

May the sacrifice of Jesus have hold of me all this day. Give me to see my sin in the light of His cross, and pour contempt on all my pride. Give me to go humbly before my God, as one who has received life by the death of his Lord. In His name. Amen.



Grant, O Lord, that I shall not fall a victim to self-pity. Take all the whine out of me. Give me to stand up straight, to walk right on, to deal my blows in the open, to take my punishment like a man. For Christ's sake. Amen.



Help me this day, O Lord, to meet the world half-way. Help me to give it smiles and good humor and expectancy. Help me to love it whether it loves me or not. Help me to love it into loving me whether it will or not. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, my Father, for the gentle ministry of music. I thank Thee for all the wandering melodies which Thou hast loosed in the world. I thank Thee for the people who have heard them in the silences, caught them up in their souls and sung them to me. Make my life one of Thy harmonies. Amen.



I thank Thee, O God, for that grace of memory which forgets the bad and cleaves to the good. Help me to cultivate it. Help me to tell the pleasant things and leave the others unsaid. Help me to dwell on the sweetness and light of yesterday and let the bitterness and blackness fade out of my thoughts. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Teach me, O Lord, the divine art of conciliation. Help me to allay rather than stir up, to lead rather than drive, to win rather than slay. Show me the glory of the bloodless battle. May I seek to soften not to crush, to convince not to destroy. In the name of Christ. Amen.



O God, deliver me from the ugliness and the meanness that are ever present with me. May I do battle with them, may I flee from them, may I smother them into silence, may I crowd them out with the things of light. And do Thou be my refuge and my strength. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

I thank Thee, my Father, for the ministry of misfortune. I praise Thee for the kindness of the shadow. Thou hast spoken to me in my weakness words which I would not have heard in my strength. If Thou choosest this day to soothe my eyes with darkness or rest my wings with loss of flight, help me to understand the mystery and to be patient. Amen.



Grant me pause, O Lord, my God, before the noble mysteries of life. May I not prattle as if they were not. May I not rush in as if their doors opened to every hasty hand. May I walk in awe and humility, knowing that Thou and I and all are but names of unsearchable mysteries. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, grant me labor today, in which I may justify my life. Grant me rest today, in which I may build again my spent powers. Grant me quiet today, in which I may hear Thy voice and see Thy face. In the name of my Master. Amen.



O Lord, help me to endure. Give me a goal enticing enough to carry me all the way. Help me to finish things. May I begin my undertakings only with the approval of God and may I persist as in Thy very presence. May I stop only at Thy signal. In Christ's name. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, stay my hand from touching the forbidden thing today. Make me hate it, make me fear it. May my conscience and my nature rebel against it. May I see vividly the terrible, slow reckoning that must grind through many years if I forget. In Christ's name. Amen.



O Lord, convict me of my sin. Hold it before my face. Spare me not. Let me see myself as others see me—yea, even as Thou seest me. But leave me the knowledge, O God, that Thou wilt forgive—and the wondrous peace of it. And show me that Thou wilt enable me to overcome. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God of the Harvest, help me to plant and tend and wait on Thee for the increase. If in Thy providence Thou givest much, it is all Thine own. If in Thy providence Thou givest little, it is still Thine. Grant me to reap in joy, for Thou doest well. In Christ's name. Amen.



Help me in my business today, O Lord, to trust Thee and to be calm in my soul. If prosperity blesses, help me to go quietly, remembering that it is Thy gift. If adversity threatens, give me Thy peace, and remind me that Thou usest even disaster to convey Thy grace. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, I thank Thee for the rest which I have in Thy house. I thank Thee for the peace which pervades my spirit when I yield myself to Thee. May I give Thee, today, my business, my pleasure, my sin, my difficulty, my all. May I really trust Thee this day. In Christ's name. Amen.



Reawaken my dreams, O Lord, my God. Take me back again to that early day when the world seemed all ready for me, when life was a fine, thrilling thing, when God was near and high ambition easy. Stir me again with the wonder of living and serving. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Lord, most high and most gracious, I feel myself dumb when I would speak to Thee of my joy and my gratitude. Thou hast given and Thou hast witholden always in love. Thou hast blessed me beyond my thinking. Thou hast made me happy beyond my telling. Thou art my Lord and my God. Amen.



My Father, save me from falling under the delusion that to be callous is to be strong. Keep me tender, I pray Thee. Keep the wells of sympathy open. Dry not up the fountain of tears. May I be willing to have my heart touched. May I not be ashamed to be moved. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O great God, I feel my frailty. I know my tendency to stray, I am aware of the tragic weakness of my flesh. What can I do but cling to Thee? To whom shall I turn but to my God? Lead me, hold me, keep me safe. For Christ's sake. Amen.



My Father, keep me close to Thyself today. May I not stray even for a moment. Remind me of the peril of leaving Thy side, though but a little way. Show me how the distance widens, the dangers thicken, and the tragedies come, before I am aware. For Christ's sake. Amen.



O God, help me to believe in and try to awaken the hidden hero in every coward, the unseen striver in every sluggard, the buried beauty in every ugliness. Give me a fond faith in the ultimate victory of God in His efforts with men. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, give me a sensitive conscience. May even my little sins hurt me until I shall have them out. May the slightest turning of Thy face oppress my spirit. May the least distance between us make me unhappy. Take away my peace, rob me of my sleep, when I wander from Thee. Amen.



O God, most high, most holy, I acknowledge my sin before Thee. I have ruthlessly broken Thy laws. I have fallen short of the great glory. If Thou wast a hard God, what fate were mine! But Thou art tender and gentle—Thou art my Father. I lean upon Thy love. O, forgive and help. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, grant that I may be bigger than my past. Break its tyranny for me. If I was weak yesterday, may that be the more reason why I should be strong today and tomorrow. Teach me that if I lean on Thee my soul is new-born every morning. In Christ's name. Amen.



Lord, help me to forget the graves along my backward way—the graves of dead hopes, of perished ambitions, of lost loves. Let the sun sparkle on them, the grass grow green over them; cover them up with flowers. May there come out of their depths for me only a devouter spirit, a tenderer appreciation and a gentler grace. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, I thank Thee for my daily bread. I thank Thee that I have it, and that it came without crime. I thank Thee that I can eat it—that my body is willing to take it and able to use it. I thank Thee that I eat it in peace—that persecution or war does not begrudge it. I thank Thee that it brings me a thought of God. Amen.



My Father, help me to show my love to Thee this day by simple obedience. May my affection not spend itself in the sentimental outpouring of words. May my devotion be not merely a gush of fond names. I would stand the sterner test of doing Thy will. In His name. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Help me, O Lord, to build my house today remembering that I must live in it forever. God keep me from using poor material or poor workmanship. Ward off the terrible day of shifting foundations and crumbling timbers. Preserve me today against the shame of tomorrow. For Christ's sake. Amen.



I arise in Thy strength, O Lord, I eat of Thy bounty. I go forth by Thy leave, to labor in Thy fields amid Thy harvests. This air is Thine, and this pleasing frame of the earth. I feel Thy touch in my heart inclining me to call Thy name. Thou encompassed me altogether. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O Lord, I would give to Thee this day. I would have it wholly Thine. Other days I have given, but I have reserved a part, or later have withdrawn a part, or have forgotten altogether. Take this day now, while it is fresh. Put Thy seal upon it, inform it with Thy presence, beautify it with Thy grace. Amen.



O mighty Father, teach me that I cannot be moved if my trust is staid on Thee. Give me the assurance that war and famine and failure and sickness and death are powerless to remove me until Thy time, and that even so I am still unmoved if I am Thine. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

God, grant me to live on the hills, where the air is clean and the sky is close. Teach me that Thou hast prepared a country for me, here and now, which flows with milk and honey. Forbid that I should wait until another time to sit beside Thee in Thy place. In Christ's name. Amen.



Lord, give me the freshness which those have who deal directly with Thee. Make me original, in that I depend upon God and not upon men. Speak to me, O great God, in a voice which shall sound above education, above surroundings, above earthly conventions, above all things else. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, help me to tell my friend what he means to me. Tomorrow he may be gone. And today he may stand in sore need of my single word. For Thou knowest how my life has often been dry and barren and then has blossomed under the chance confession of my friend. Amen.



Lord, it seems that Thou hast put me in this place and given me this particular work to do. Grant me to stay until I hear another command. May I cultivate the place until it shall yield gold; may I strive at the work until it shall soar and sing. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, I need wisdom today. More and more I feel that I know not. A hundred voices call, a hundred paths invite. Which shall I choose amid so many? How shall I make my time and my strength weigh the most? O God, I come to Thee; guide me. For Christ's sake. Amen.



Lord, how can I be so selfish and vain and vengeful and cowardly? My Master forgot Himself, He despised the praises of men, He blessed His enemies, He feared not anything. I weep when I watch Him, my heart swells with the glory of Him; He was so lonely and so great. How can I be so little worthy of Him? Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Lord, in the dark hours, help me not to be discouraged about my discouragement. Help me not to worry over my worry. May I trust Thee even with my distrust. May I lie down and wait for the streams to flow back from God, bringing me courage and quiet and trust. Amen.



O God, Thou art my Father, and I am Thy child. May the sense of it strike new chords in my being. May I thrill with it as I have not before. May I rest in my Father's love unafraid, and go about in my Father's house with the liberty of the sons of God. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, teach me my limitations. Grant me to do my little work and be glad. But, Lord, teach me that, if I must acknowledge limits in what I do, I need not in how I do. Reveal above me the infinite reaches of gentleness, fidelity and courage, to which I may climb. In Christ's name. Amen.



Lord, I thank Thee this day for food, for clothes, for shelter. I thank Thee for work and the strength to do it. I thank Thee for the right use of my faculties. I thank Thee for the chance to be honest and faithful and true. I thank Thee for the hope of another life. I thank Thee for my God. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, dignify in my eyes the grace of fidelity. O, make me faithful through the long succession of small days. Make me faithful in the part that never will be seen. Make me faithful among the men who cannot bring me to judgment. Make me faithful as Thou art faithful, and for Thy name's sake. Amen.



O, my Lord, are alien voices leading me astray? Are the world and the flesh gaining my ear, rather than the still, small voice? How easy it is to lose the course! How easy to wander! How easy to forget! O, keep me close! Keep me sensitive! Keep me keyed to Thy hand! For Christ's sake. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, be near me this day. Grant that I may bear my burdens bravely, fight my battles manfully, accept my mercies thankfully. May I be faithful, honest and kind in all the relations of life. Help me to meet failure with calmness and success with modesty, and in all things to be glad. For Christ's sake. Amen.



My Father, bless those who gather with slow, silent feet this morning around a poor, bereft table. May the sun steal in and rest in glory. May an Unseen Presence find entrance and abiding place. And may I, at my happier board, rejoice and be glad, adding a little more of cheer to the world's store. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Give me a place, O my God, in the secret of Thy presence. May I be quiet in the midst of all the turmoil, unmoved amid the storm. May I approach all things with Thy mind and go back to Thee for my daily and hourly reckonings. Breathe rest into my soul; cover me with Thy wings. For Christ's sake. Amen.



Lord, make me thankful for my enemies. May I accept their criticisms as suggestions for growth. May I hearken to them, that I may be mindful of my faults and humble before my God. May they minister to me in the things I need. May they give me strength, courage, patience, determination, dependence upon Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, give me freedom. Loose me from the shackles of fear and hate and all sin. Break my cage and lead me out. Let me feel the wings which I have dreamt about. Tame the heights for me. Give my soul its proper air. Show me the fullness and the far reaches of life. In Christ's name. Amen.



Lord, Thy strength is in Thy love. Thy might is Thy sacrifice. Thou drawest all men unto Thyself because Thou hast bled. Thou orderest the hosts of heaven and turnest the hearts of men by the power of tears and the majesty of pain. Thy scepter is a towel and Thy throne is a cross. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O God, give me passion for the right! I would love it with all my heart. Thou knowest how dull it appears at times to my foolish eyes, and with what slow zeal I follow it. Give me a great thirst for the things of the spirit. I would pursue them with hurrying feet and with tears of desire. Amen.



Lord, stop me from besieging Thy throne with petty requests for things. May I come to Thee for life. May I beg Thee for Thyself. And taking Thee into myself may I go forth to live Thee all the days. Give me thus the victory; give me thus a nameless peace; give me this an utter satisfaction. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Lord, what wait I for? Why stand I here idle, questioning, finding fault? Yonder ebbs and flows the battle, yonder is panic to turn, yonder are wounds to stanch, yonder waits the world for a word from God. Send me. In Christ's name. Amen.



Lord, help me this day to be reckless in my giving to the world. Give me the old-time, laughing spirit of prodigality. May I give and look for no return. May I go on my way loving and lavishing and rejoicing. And let me give of my heart's treasure, of my life's reddest blood, of the passion and pain of my soul. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

My Father, what a fair day is this Thou hast given! How fit for courage, for noble endeavor! How suited to honesty and loveliness of life. What charming invitation it brings for quiet thought, gentle speech and generous action! How packed with all opportunity! How full of God! Amen.



Lord, as I pause in beginning the journey through this day, I foresee burdens which I may not be able to bear, emergencies which I may not be able to meet, temptations which I may not be able to resist. And always overhanging is the unseen, the unknown, the unexpected. I must commit my way unto Thee. Sustain me, or I fail and fall. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

Lord, help me to be a prince today in the kingdom of God. May I wear my poor garments with such contentment and such honesty that they shall become royal robes. May my small task grow kingly from the way I shall perform it. May my crown be in my heart, if not on my head. In Christ's name. Amen.



Help me today, O God, to cultivate that part of me which lays hold on Thee. May I use my body and my mind, but also my faith instinct, my power to trust. May I try and try and try the wings of my soul. May I hold fast the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

God, grant to sustain me for this one day. Give me strength for this little time. And if today Thou failest me not surely Thou wilt keep tryst with me tomorrow. Give me, then, to go quietly, content with the oil and the meal of Thy grace which shall be replenished according to my need. In Jesus' name. Amen.



May I enter this day without hurry. May I face its emergencies without fear. May I meet its temptations without dishonor. May I bear its burdens without complaint. May I rest at its close without shame. In Christ's name. Amen.



## BEGINNING THE DAY

Lord, help me to do fewer things and to do them better. Grant me to go deeper. May I not outrun myself. Give me quiet. May I be willing to commune with my own soul. Surround me with Thy rest. Save me from the tyranny of the poor little salary of men's approval. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Have I begun this day well? Did I spoil it before its beginning by sleeping too little? Did I lie idly in bed and make its beginning lazy and listless and late? Did I contribute to the joy of the morning meal? Have I met the world with my "morning face"? Lord, help me to begin well. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

O my God, teach me the worthiness of the long struggle. Reveal to me on the one side the terrible depths, the frightful darkness, the slow and utter rotting of life. And on the other show me the serene heights, the splendors and the glories, the deep satisfactions, the eternal growing. In Christ's name. Amen.



O Lord, I thank Thee for my friends. I thank Thee for the warm associations that lift up life. I thank Thee for the love which Thou hast sent into the hearts of men. I thank Thee for handclasps, for remembrances, for tokens of affection, for good wishes, for gracious words, for gentle deeds. Amen.

O God, I beg Thee this day for courage to go on. Thou canst not quench the smoking flax. Thou wilt not forget Thine own. Remember me in mercy and visit me with Thy strength. Wrest me away from sloth and despair. Tell me of my early dreams and whip me again into their pursuing. In His name. Amen.



O Lord, give me the perfect love that casteth out fear. May I love the world so well and serve it so faithfully that I shall be independent of its praise or its blame. May I love Thee so well, my Lord and my God, that I shall sit with Thee and walk with Thee in perfect peace. In Christ's name. Amen.

## BEGINNING THE DAY

What shall I do, my Lord? Because my voice is so tiny, shall I cease to sing? Or shall I add my little to all the rest and have at least a part in a world of song. Yea, grant me to sing, and thereby learn how many others are singing; and mayhap awaken still others, and they others. Grant me to sing until I sleep. For Thou hast ordained that the song shall overcome the sigh. Amen.



Lord, teach me that if I did not get tired I could never enter into the heaviness of that multitude who are always tired. Teach me that otherwise I could never know the blessedness of rest. Teach me that Thou gavest me my strength to spend, and that in its spending I grow likest to Thee. Amen.







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